

March 1, 2016

To the Connecticut Education Committee:

I, Richard Berghaus, am a parent of a dyslexic student living in Wilton, Ct. I am submitting this document as my written testimony and I will not be able to testify at the hearing on March 2, 2016.

I support SB 317, an Act Concerning Dyslexia but I am strongly requesting an amendment, that candidates seeking a remedial reading endorsement complete a graduate level program aligned with evidence-based practices and the IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading. It is my understanding that this bill calls for “a Course,” in Dyslexia which will not be sufficient enough to train our teachers to help dyslexic students succeed. Senate Bill 317 is not comprehensive enough to provide the needed supports. Comprehensive teacher preparation using evidence based curriculum and content (graduate level) must take place in our CT Institutions of Higher Education, regarding the literacy instruction for students with Dyslexia.

As a supporter of our Dyslexic students, I know that Teacher preparation must align with evidence based standards that are proven to be effective. IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards For Teachers of Reading, should be aligned with the Remedial Reading (102) Endorsement. I encourage your support of this amendment so that our teachers and students will have the education and support that they need to succeed.

As more and more students are identified and diagnosed with Dyslexia, it is more critical than ever to make sure our teachers are properly trained to help these children, and even adults who have lived with this dyslexia, succeed.

Thank You for your support!

Regards,

Richard Berghaus

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